

Economic Research Area

The Economic Research Area is responsible for that part of the ORR mission, as provided in DCID 3/1, concerned with production of all-source economic intelligence on the Sino-Soviet Bloc and its activities in non-Bloc countries. The Area provides secretariats and members for EIC subcommittees in its field of responsibility.

The Office of the Chief, Economic Research provides general guidance and direction required by the Area in the fulfillment of its mission of furnishing the economic intelligence required for national intelligence purposes, including contributions to National Intelligence Estimates and National Intelligence Surveys; for support of other IAC agencies and interagency groups; and for other CIA Offices in the carrying out of their assigned responsibilities. The Chief, Economic Research directs the activities of the supporting staffs within his office and of four operating divisions - one concerned with over-all economic appraisals and three with functional responsibilities for individual sectors of the Bloc economy.

The Analysis Division produces aggregative analyses and all-source integrated economic intelligence in collaboration with other divisions. It is particularly concerned with national and regional studies of the economic capabilities of the Bloc, including national income, economic growth, relationships between economic sectors, fiscal and investment policies, economic organization, consumer welfare, and human resources.

The Industrial Division studies the capital and consumer goods industries and the military end product industries of the Sino-Soviet Bloc. This division produces all-source economic intelligence on the electrical equipment, medium and heavy machinery, and light manufacturing industries, including aircraft, shipbuilding and guided missiles. Analysis of the military industries places primary focus on the cost and economic burden of the Bloc's military programs and modern weapons production.

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The Materials Division concerns itself primarily with the study of production, processing, and distribution of industrial and agricultural raw materials in the Sino-Soviet Bloc. More specifically, this division produces economic intelligence reports on chemicals, metals and minerals; energy resources including petroleum, solid fuels, electric power, and nuclear energy; and food and agriculture, including forestry.

The Services Division is responsible for providing intelligence on the economic services sectors of the Bloc economy and on the trade and other relations of Bloc countries with countries of the Free World. The Division conducts research on Bloc capabilities in transportation, communication and construction; on Bloc international trade and financial relations; and on Bloc activities and capabilities in the economic penetration of underdeveloped countries. In addition, this division is responsible for providing the coordinated intelligence needed by agencies of the U.S. Government charged with the formulation and administration of economic defense policies and operations, and for providing the secretariat of the Economic Defense Intelligence Committee.

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